

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are still pending in the patent application.

Claim 16 is amended in view of the point raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Attached is a new Figure 1.

The Claimed Invention

Claim 1 recites a pumping device featuring a third seal arranged between a motor seal and a pump seal, and further arranged in relation to a shaft for providing additional sealing protection for the motor seal.

The third seal may be a labyrinth, magnetic or lip seal, as well as a non-contact seal, and may be located on the motor end of the close coupled adapter to function as a primary sealing device.

The present invention overcomes the problem in the art by adding the third seal, such as a labyrinth seal, in front of the motor sealing device. This provides an additional seal of known capabilities to augment the motor sealing device. The labyrinth seal is added to the pump adapter and therefore is part of the pump. This dual sealing is a unique solution providing the motor bearings double protection from pump leakage and the ingress of liquid from wash-down events common to services encountered in close coupled pump applications.

Claim 11 recites a pumping device having similar features.

The Traversal

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, the main independent claims are rejected as being anticipated by Lipe.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Lipe does not teach or suggest a pumping device featuring a third seal arranged between the motor seal and the pump seal, and further arranged in relation to a shaft for providing additional sealing protection for a motor seal, as claimed herein.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Lipe discloses a pump motor seal system having an annular gas tight chamber 18 with two identical mechanical face seals 32 arranged in relation to a shoulder 31 therein. The chamber 18 is provided with a sealing and lubrication liquid and a pressured gas to insure adequate lubricating of contacting surfaces of the mechanical seals 32. The two identical mechanical face seals 32 and shoulder 31 are arranged in relation to a stepped drive shaft 12. An O-ring 17 is arranged between a plate 16 and a seal housing 8 to insure the gas tight seal, as described in lines 22-24 on column 2 of Lipe. The reasoning in paragraph 4 of the Office Action is analogizing the O-ring 17 to the claims third seal.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Lipe does not teach or suggest that the O-ring 17 is arranged between a motor seal and a pump seal, as claimed, and also does not teach or suggest that the O-ring 17 is further arranged in relation to a shaft for providing additional sealing protection for the motor seal. In contrast, Lipe's O-ring 17 is arranged between the plate 16 and the seal housing 8 to insure the gas tight seal, as described in lines 22-24 on column 2 of Lipe. It is respectfully submitted that Lipe's plate 16 and seal housing 8 are not the motor seal and pump seal, as

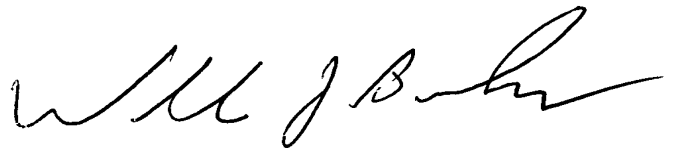
claimed. In addition, Lipe's O-ring 17 is also not further arranged in relation to Lipe's stepped drive shaft 12 for providing additional sealing protection for the motor seal.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Lipe does not teach or suggest a pumping device featuring a third seal arranged between the motor seal and the pump seal, and further arranged in relation to the shaft for providing additional sealing protection for the motor seal, as claimed herein.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 11, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable for all the same reasons.

Reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Barber', is written over a horizontal line.

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